

As a journalist, I am very concerned by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. Their demand to local stations usurps local decision making and is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

The public airwaves are entrusted to broadcasters free of charge. Companies such as Sinclair are obligated by law to serve the public interest. Ordering local stations to air a non-journalistic video is pure electioneering, which is illegal under federal election laws.

This decision by Sinclair executives does nothing to promote democracy. It is an example of the dangers media consolidation poses to the freedoms we enjoy in the United States.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you for consideration.